

NSC BRIEFING

15 July 1959

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YEMEN

I. Imam's delay in returning to Yemen from Rome, 25X1

will give Crown Prince Badr

more time to strengthen his position with the aid of UAR military and civilian missions, but it will also permit dissident pressures to build up further in Yemen.

A. Egyptian military mission helping Badr to build up 3,000-man personal striking force equipped with Yemen's Soviet bloc tanks, and attempting place Yemen's ground-attack aircraft in operational status--thirty IL-10's, outdated ~~ground-attack~~ <sup>conventional</sup> aircraft.

B. Badr's growing reliance on UAR and his intention initiate reforms have caused resentment by tribal chiefs, who see threat to their traditional position as power behind Imamate.

C. Tribes appear on verge rebellion, but have supported Badr in return for heavy subsidies and out of respect for Imam's authority.

D. There had been signs Imam might not back extent of Badr's collaboration with Egyptians, fearing threat to his absolute position. Also have been indications Imam planned deal ruthlessly with those responsible for disturbances while he away.

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